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Dated: February 13, 2004

Signature: 

Marco Jimenez

Docket No.: 199372003910  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of:

Naoki SHINDO, et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Concurrently herewith

For: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING  
APPARATUS AND SUBSTRATE  
PROCESSING METHOD

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 3743

Parent Serial No.: 10/034,520

Parent Filing Date: December 28, 2001

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is a preliminary amendment to accompany the above-identified divisional application. The entire disclosure of the prior application, application serial no. 10/034,520 filed on December 28, 2001, from which an oath or declaration is supplied, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying divisional application and is hereby entirely incorporated by reference.

The present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-401466 filed December 28, 2000, Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-009207 filed January 17, 2001 and Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-009208 filed January 17, 2001. All papers and documents required to make the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f) were filed in the parent case on December 28, 2001.

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.